FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rep. John Nygren

January 17, 2017 (888) 534-0089

Updated Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Goes Live

Madison – On Tuesday, Representative Nygren (R-Marinette) released the following statement regarding the launch of the new and improved Prescription Drug Monitoring Program:

"A lot of work has been done to simplify and streamline our state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (ePDMP) and I'm excited to announce that the new program is live today. The ePDMP is used by doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and others who prescribe and dispense medications and is a useful tool that helps pinpoint and mitigate instances of overprescribing.

"Evidence shows that overprescribing in Wisconsin has been all too common and we are now experiencing an opioid epidemic. To help fight this epidemic, we have been building upon the HOPE Agenda – a legislative package that focuses on opioid addiction, prevention, treatment, and recovery. As part of this package, we ensured that the ePDMP was more widely used. In order to make this transition as smooth as possible, the program has been revamped and is now much more user-friendly.

"I'm looking forward to hearing feedback about the improved program, and it is my hope that people in the medical community will find it's a useful tool in fighting opioid addiction in our state."

<u>2015 Wisconsin Act 267</u> created review and reporting requirements for the ePDMP; however, these requirements don't go into effect for the program's users until April, 2017.

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